

M-G-M's "Trackless Train" of M.P. Good-Will Touring Ontario and Quebec

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 26, No. 19

TORONTO 2, CANADA

September 1st, 1934

The answer to
the question that
everybody is asking!

*(It's on the
next page)*

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259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

Business is GREAT!



"TREASURE ISLAND" starts off with a whoop-la weekend at Baltimore, beating the record-holding "Tugboat Annie" by 16 percent. Boston terrific! *You're next!* What a sensation!

"GIRL FROM MISSOURI" spreading box-office sunshine from coast to coast! *She'll show you!*

"HIDE-OUT" looks like another "Thin Man", it's got that certain something! *Talk it up!*

COAST PREVIEWS on "Barretts of Wimpole Street", "Merry Widow" and "Chained" have set the whole film colony shouting M-G-M! Hello '34-'35! Leo's on the loose again!

"The Barretts of Wimpole St." with Norma Shearer—Fredric March—Charles Laughton Will Make Motion Picture History

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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M-G-M'S GOOD-WILL TOUR



THERE is a Trackless Train in Canada, equipped with Northern-Electric, which is speeding through Ontario, and Quebec on a Motion Picture good-will tour.

It's a Leo the Lion idea and train, which introduces the "folks at home", and the folks crazy about movies, to a Hollywood on Wheels. Jess Greene in charge of making films, may bring a few more screen stars to the M-G-M starry kingdom. Who knows but that some Canadian's personality might just register itself all over the screen. Good luck and the Accident of Good Fortune can make a nonentity a celebrity.

Take the Dionne Quintuplets. We mean the father of this flock of world famous girl-babies. An honest-to-goodness Canadian, who never in his wildest moments, the "night of nights" not even excepted, dreamed of being the father of five babies all at once, and that his babies would indirectly become the concern of the entire world!

When Marie Dressler, Norma Shearer, Ruby Keeler, opened their Canadian eyes (not as Dionne babies) we are certain that their fond mothers never thought that these daughters of Canada would some day inspire a Canadian people and press to say with pride, "they are Canadian-born".

W. R. Ferguson is the Director of the M-G-M Exploitation which is heralding the approach of the Trackless Train, the latter which enjoyed a featured position at Canada's Greatest Annual Show, The Canadian National Exhibition.

"LITTLE WOMEN" GETS INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

RKO'S "Little Women" with Katharine Hepburn and a cast of distinctive players won the Honor Prize Diploma presented by the Minister of Economics at Vienna, Austria, during the showing of international film masterpieces at the International Film Festival.

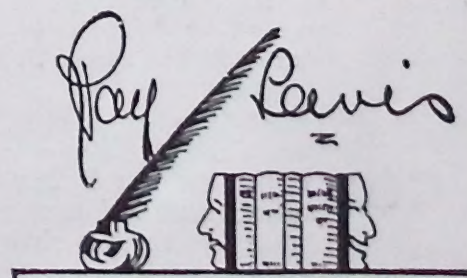
This prize is the highest award of distinction. The awards were graded in three classes: "very good", "good", and "mediocre". "Little Women" captured the "very good" classification on the five points required; acting, settings, direction, photography and manuscript. It was the only picture to achieve "very good" on all points.

DIGEST READERS

YOU are reminded that several weeks ago we mailed you a card asking a few questions, such as "Do you receive The Digest?", "What pages do you prefer?", "Do you believe Canada should have a Canadian Motion Picture Trade Paper, Etc."

We are in receipt of over one hundred replies, but this number does not begin to represent the exhibitors of Canada, who receive The Digest.

Please Exhibitors, we have been talking to you through The Digest for close to twenty years. Talk to The Digest, send in the cards with your answers to questions asked. We will appreciate your co-operation.



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

I WAS shocked and grieved to hear of the death of my old friend J. D. (Jaydee) Williams, who passed away after an illness of about ten days, at the Emergency Hospital, New York, following a complication of ailments, which came as the result of a nervous breakdown. Thus the last curtain rings down on a real showman, one of those rare and colourful figures in our show world, who still carried about him the glamour of a J. P. Barnum.

When Talking Pictures first appeared upon the horizon of our Show-world, "Jaydee" mapped out a plan to me to make London, England, the International Talking Picture centre of the world. London was a "natural" market argued "Jaydee", the European and Continental, the Asiatic world came to its open door; London was America's foreign market port, the Studio of the World for the making of pictures in foreign languages.

YEARS ago "Jaydee" stepped into Show Business, as far back as 41 years ago, when at the age of sixteen "Jaydee" left high school to become treasurer of a theatre. He is said to have been the first showman to present Motion Pictures under a tent, touring the country with his show.

His career gives him a prominent part with the formation of Paramount, through an early tie-up with Adolph Zukor, through his association with W. W. Hodkinson.

In 1916 "Jaydee" organized the First National Exhibitors' Circuit of Theatres under a picture franchise plan. It was a big idea, it was a new idea, it turned out to be a Milestone in the history of Motion Pictures. "Jaydee" was general manager of First National for a period of six years. In 1925 he organized the Ritz Carlton Pictures Inc., in which Rudolph Valentino, of world picture fame, was the first star.

"Jaydee" always travelled in successful company. He helped to mould the career of such stars as Mary Pickford, Charles Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, etc., and was associated with the career of D. W. Griffith, Louis B. Mayer, Joseph B. Mayer, Thomas H. Ince.

IN 1926 "Jaydee" went to England, he had a British complex always in his makeup, sensing that the British Empire would be an important factor in Motion Pictures even at that period when London was showing "chestnuts".

"Jaydee" organized British International Pictures Ltd.; building the Elstree Studios, now among the finest studios in the picture-producing world. In 1928, associated with John Maxwell, as head of British International, and E. W. Hammons, President of Educational, he organized the World Wide Pictures of New York City.

When "Jaydee" had a legal battle with British International, he won his case (under a settlement arbitration), but not before one of the leading Judges of England had given "Jaydee" a tribute as to ability and honesty which few Big Business Men have had the good fortune, or merit, to attain.

Today, "Jaydee" will be mourned as a "man of ideas", "aggressive", "Independent". All will come to pay tribute to the man who died. The Digest paid tribute always to the man who lived. When "Jaydee", in June, wrote to Ray Lewis as follows, "Dear Ray, I read your editorial 'The Motion Picture Target' in the May 26th issue of The Digest and think it is a fine editorial. I can tell you, Ray, exactly what the Motion Picture business needs — and I am telling it to you from the heart. It needs some very intelligent people like yourself, with the power you have at your command to write some plain horse-sense regarding conditions as existing in the business today". When "Jaydee" wrote to me in that strain I published his letter, because I valued any tribute, or recognition from this superlative showman, whether he was at the head of a big organization, symbol of prosperity and success, or whether he was just trying to put over another of his live ideas.

"JAYDEE" with plenty of "dough" to entertain with the hospitality of a "Rich Man", or "Jaydee" with little cash, did not alter the character of "Jaydee". His money and position did not make him important or great to me, he was a great showman, a real man and friend even when he had little cash with which to indulge his prodigality toward his friends. I not only mourn his going, I weep that our Show Business in the March of Time, is losing its real Showmen. I grieve that "Jaydee" should now be "among the missing", at the early age of 57.

J. D. Williams is survived by his widow, Ethel Hope Williams, and three sisters.

Dear Old London

(Special to The Digest from our London correspondent, Dennison Thornton)

UNIVERSAL have just signed a three-year contract with Willy Castello, Dutch stage and screen star and amateur heavyweight champion of Holland. Castello was visiting London and on his way into Film House, where Universal have their offices, the unexpected occurred. One of Carl Laemmle's executives walked out of the elevator and into Castello. Universal's big man took one look at the Dutchman and said: "You're the man we want".

By the time you read this Costello will be en-route to Hollywood.

FOLLOWING completion of "Scarlet Pimpernel" London Films will make "Bosambo", formerly called "Kongo Raid". Picture is based on Edgar Wallace's "Sanders of the River" and will star Paul Robeson. Director Zoltan Korda returned recently from Africa where he "shot" exteriors. When Brother Alexander inspected the African footage he decided the material justified something more than a mere adventure film. So the picture will be made as a study of negro racial culture as well as a thriller. Robeson will sing primitive negro music for the first time on the screen. Nina Mae McKinney, colored actress who played in M-G-M's "Hallelujah" and who is now appearing in vaudeville and cabaret here, has been cast opposite Robeson.

PERSISTENT, vigorous attacks on international armament traffic in the daily press and elsewhere have inspired a film on the subject. Freenat Films Ltd., an independent group backed by the League of Nations Society, is producing a feature entitled "Thunder in the Air" which aims to unmask the present armament racket in Europe and to make the public conscious of the present dangers of another war.

The producers, Hans Nieter and Fred Swann, are supplementing their picture with authentic newsreel and "official" shots secured through co-operation of Governments the world over. Unemployed and war veterans have been recruited for the war scenes.

Ralph Richardson who played title role in B.I.P.'s "Return of Bull-Dog Drummond" has the lead. Vernon Bartlett, newspaperman and expert on international affairs will deliver a spoken prologue.

VOGUE FILMS who are making Charles Farrell's first British film, "Falling in Love", have just purchased an original story by Gregory Ratoff which will be their next picture. Ratoff is also appearing in the Farrell production in which Margot Grahame and Mary Lawson have the feminine leads. Watch Mary Lawson. She's a newcomer but unquestionably star material. Also keep your eye on Nova Pilbeam, Gaumont's fourteen-year-old "find" who has made her debut opposite Matheson Lang in "Little Friend". Gaumont are so excited over Pilbeam's work that they are billing her as Lang's co-star in the advertising.

GAUMONT'S musical spectacle "Chu Chin Chow" is set to follow "The House of Rothschild" at the Tivoli shortly. Gaumont-British have planned a premiere for "Chow" which they claim will even make Syd Graumann weep with envy!

CONKLIN IN WINNIPEG

(Special to the Digest)

AT the meeting of the city council of Portage la Prairie, Man., August 22, a by-law was presented for the remission of taxes on the Playhouse Theatre amounting to \$650.51; but on the second reading it was defeated. Ald. A. E. Mellen thought the remission would not be fair to the taxpayers of the city and if the concession was granted others would ask for a similar reduction. Mayor Miller said he did not like the idea of rebates and he thought from now on no concession ought to be granted.

* * * *

Northern Electric at Rialto

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by H. A. Morton, owner of the Rialto Theatre, Winnipeg, that a new sound system has been installed by the Northern Electric Co. Much progress has been made in the perfection of sound preparation, and the equipment just installed is of the very latest type, so that the pictures are produced exactly as recorded in the studios.

The theatre has been thoroughly renovated, painted and decorated. New carpets have been laid in the foyer and lobby, a new system of ventilation has been installed, and in all the comfort of patrons has been the first consideration.

Mr. Morton has booked some of the most outstanding pictures of the current season, so that the patrons are assured of the finest in ear and eye entertainment.

* * * *

Change of Managers

IN accordance with its policy of promoting members of the staff from the ranks, the Famous Players Canadian Corporation announced several changes in managers and other positions in Winnipeg. Walter F. Davis goes to the Orpheum Theatre, Fort William, to relieve W. F. Robson, who is taking an extended vacation to visit his home in Australia.

Nector Novak, treasurer and assistant manager of the RKO Capitol Theatre, Winnipeg, takes over the management of the Arlington Theatre, Winnipeg, and will be succeeded, at the Capitol, Winnipeg, by Leslie Pugsley, at present doorman at that theatre.

Max Golden, assistant manager and treasurer of the Metropolitan Theatre, Winnipeg, is appointed manager of the Capitol Theatre, Brandon, Man.; and George Dowbiggan, formerly manager of the Crescent Theatre, Winnipeg, takes over Mr. Golden's duties at the Metropolitan, Winnipeg.

* * * *

Cecilia Parker with M-G-M

BLONDE Cecilia Parker, 20 years of age, a Canadian, has obtained approval of a seven-year contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Los Angeles.

Her starting salary is \$75 a week and this scales upward to \$1,000 a week for the seventh year. Miss Parker has just completed a picture in which she played sister to a character portrayed by Greta Garbo. Born in Fort William, Ont., Miss Parker was brought to Los Angeles as a child..

* * * *

Robert Watson, Canadian.

ROBERT WATSON, Winnipeg author and historian, now resident in Hollywood with his family, has just been given his first assignment in Moving Pictures. He has been engaged to act as technical director at the RKO studios in the forthcoming film production of Sir James M. Barrie's "Little Minister", in which Katherine Hepburn will be starred as "Babbie".

We Suggest a New Name for Gaumont-British Find Nova Pilbeam - She's no Pil. Nova Beam Sounds Happier!

Reviews and Previews

By "JAY L."

"STRAIGHT IS THE WAY" (M-G-M)

"STRAIGHT IS THE WAY", the current picture at Loew's, Toronto, is a rather sordid story of New York's East Side. It has, however, an excellent cast, and one that makes the characters appear very real.

Franchot Tone, la Crawford's current, plays the young Jewish boy, who on his release from prison, is met by his old and doting mother (May Robson) and the girl who has kept her company in her son's absence (Karen Morley). Tone decides to go straight, but he is still attracted by Gladys George, who was his "moll" before he was sent up the river. He clashes with Jack LaRue, his former Gangster leader about Gladys, whom Jack cherishes as his "poisonal" property, and in a fight that ensues LaRue falls off the roof and is killed. Tone is told by C. Henry Gordon, the "dick", that unless he can prove that LaRue had a gun, he, Tone, will be charged with murder. At the last moment the gun is found by Tone's gangster pal, played by Nat Pendleton, and Tone is released to marry Karen Morley.

Nat Pendleton, whom you should remember for his excellent work in "Penthouse" and other pictures, practically steals the picture from the principals. He is rapidly becoming one of the most steadily-worked actors on the screen, and although under contract to Metro, is being borrowed by all the other studios. One cannot see too much of this boy.

* * * *

"THE DEFENSE RESTS" (COLUMBIA)

YOUR reviewer happened to be in Philly the other day and dropped into the Stanton to see "The Defense Rests". Philadelphia, as you know, is the centre of the anti-film crusade, and after seeing a picture like "The Defense Rests" you can understand why people become indignant at some movies.

The story by Jo Swerling of "Man's Castle" fame, contains almost every vile emotion the human breast can emote. It is the story of a famous (or infamous) criminal lawyer, who through his knowledge of the tricks of the trade and his apparent eloquence (although you only see him addressing a jury once — and that for a very short time) has been the instrument of releasing many notorious criminals. He obtains the acquittal of a girl, who at his instigation pleads "Guilty" although she is actually innocent. This case, however, nearly results in his downfall, for his secretary, although madly in love with him, is disgusted with his methods and determines to expose him. When he is forced by his gangster clients to take the defense of an alleged kidnapper, she threatens to expose him and have him disbarred unless he withdraws from the case. He calls her bluff, but the last day of the trial the mother of the kidnapped child (which was returned dead) begs him to retire from the case and when he refuses, kills herself before his eyes. He is so overcome by remorse that he not only refuses to conduct the defense but becomes special prosecutor, and as a reward for his magnanimous gesture his secretary marries him.

Jack Holt plays the hard-drinking, fast-living shyster, and Jean Arthur is his secretary. Jean is admittedly a very pretty girl, but as an actress she would make a good secretary. A useful addition to the cast is Nat Pendleton who plays Holt's assistant. Lambert Hillyer handles the direction.

The picture, as a typical gangster and crime movie, is satisfactory enough, but most inappropriate, at a time when the country is clamouring against such pictures.

* * * *

"THE CATSPA" (HAROLD LLOYD-FOX)

HAROLD LLOYD celebrates his return to the screen after a two years' absence with a really first-rate picture. The story is adapted from Clarence Buddington Kelland's novel of the same name which ran as a serial in the *Saturday Evening Post*. Sam Taylor handles the directing in his usual capable manner, and the supporting cast is excellent.

It is a little different from Lloyd's usual hair-raising comedies, but nevertheless is packed with plenty of excitement and thrills. The story is that of a young American, the son of a missionary, brought up in China. He returns to the scene of his birth for the purpose of finding a mother for his children, and is unwittingly enmeshed in a net of political intrigue. Through an unexpected break he is elected mayor of the town and by application of Chinese methods and philosophies cleans out the town of crooks and grafters. How he is framed, but escapes the trap by use of Chinese tortures (?), supplies the thrilling climax of the picture. His ideas of courtship with wise-cracking Una Merkel as the honoured one, results in some very amusing scenes.

George Barbier as the former crook, who becomes Police Commissioner, is a great addition to the cast, and Nat Pendleton, the most sought-after man on the screen, contributes some of his incomparable comedy. Others in the cast are Grace Bradley, Alan Dinehart, Grant Mitchell and James Donlan.

* * * *

"LET'S TRY AGAIN" (RKO)

THE fine acting of Clive Brook and Diana Wynyard, the prize-winning combination of "Cavalcade", make an interesting picture of "Let's Try Again". The story deals with a busy physician and his wife, who after ten years of matrimonial bliss discover the old thrill is gone. The wife falls for her niece's fiance, and is intending to marry him, while her husband, much to his surprise, finds he doesn't care. He is going to do the honourable thing and divorce her, and at the same time has taken up with a former patient, who has always been "that way" about him. At the last moment it is discovered that the niece is "infanticipating", and the former fiance decides to "do right by our Nell". Diana, like a true aristocrat, takes it on the chin, and after a rather silly discussion with her husband, who in the meantime has discovered that he still cares, decides to "try again".

Clive Brook and Diana Wynyard give sincere performances, of a quality which on the stage would receive great acclaim. Irene Hervey who plays the niece is, I believe, a newcomer to the Silver Screen. She plays her small part with the finesse of a veteran, and your reviewer predicts a future for this girl. Theodore Newton is satisfactory as the fiance, as is Helen Vinson as the doctor's would-be mistress. Arthur Hoyt as Phillips the butler supplies the humour, and makes an important contribution by way of real character acting.

Rex and Lido Changed to Northern Electric "Voice of Action"

We hear from our Montreal correspondent that the Rex and Lido Theatres in that city, recently replaced their Sound Equipments, and have now installed complete Northern Electric "Voice of Action" Systems.

Regretfully We Report that "Jaydee" Williams, Veteran Showman Passes On at 57



Show Business



September Releases by M-G-M

Topped by "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", one of the new Irving Thalberg special M-G-M productions, the group of releases from this company for September includes a new Constance Bennett starring film, "Outcast Lady"; the picture which launches Jean Parker's starring cast, "Have a Heart"; and "Death on the Diamond", a fast-paced mystery melodrama with a baseball background.

John Balderston Completes Script for Universal

John Balderston, author of "Berkeley Square", and adaptor of "Frankenstein" and "Dracula", has completed the script of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" which Carl Laemmle, Jr., will personally produce at Universal City. Edmund Grainger will supervise. Several others are concerned in devising a logical ending for the story, which Dickens himself never completed. These include Sonya Levien, Leopold Atlas, and Bradley King.

Genevieve Tobin, currently making "By Your Leave" for RKO Radio Pictures, has contracted to write a number of articles about Hollywood for British newspapers and magazines.

The blonde actress also is preparing stories for the screen.

Rudy Vallee Goes to Coast Late Next Month

Rudy Vallee will go to California and the Warner Bros. studios during the last week in September, as he is due at the production centre on October 1st to begin preparations for his first starring picture under his long-term Warner contract. "Sweet Music" will be the title of the film; the story has been written by Jerry Wald, author of "20 Million Sweethearts". Vallee was a guest of honor at the premiere of "Dames" last Wednesday night at the Strand Theatre.

Two New M-G-M Pictures Win Award of Magazine

Two new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer releases, "Treasure Island" and "Murder in the Private Car", have been awarded the special seal given outstanding films suitable for family entertainment by Parents' Magazine.

"Treasure Island" is currently proving one of the most successful pictures of the new season, drawing record receipts in many theatres where it has played. Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper are co-starred, under Victor Fleming's direction with a notable supporting cast.

"Murder in the Private Car" the popular new mystery melodrama, has a cast headed by Charles Ruggles. Russell Hardie, Una Merkel and Mary Carlisle. Harry Beaumont is the director.

Joan Crawford in "Forsaking All Others"

Joan Crawford, Clark Gable and Robert Montgomery will head the cast assembled at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios for the film adaptation of the stage play, "Forsaking All Others". Tallulah Bankhead had the starring role in the original play, written by Frank Morgan Cavett and Edward Roberts. W. S. Van Dyke, who has just finished "Hide Out", will direct the new photoplay. Bernard Hyman acting as production supervisor. Joseph Mankiewicz had prepared the film adaptation.

Universal Moviegrams

June Clayworth, the reigning ingenue sensation in New York because of her work at the Ambassador Theatre in "Are You Decent", has been signed to a long term contract by Carl Laemmle, Jr. Miss Clayworth reports at Universal City on Sept. 17. No assignment has been given to her as yet, but Carl Laemmle, Jr., has as much faith in her future as he has in the proven capabilities in Margaret Sullavan, Jane Wyatt, and Binnie Barnes, all of whom succeeded amazingly in their first pictures for Universal.

Warner Bros. will begin immediately to publicize and advertise a catchphrase "teaser" on "Dames" in its own theatres and will advise the same procedure for other houses playing the musical picture in which Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell play the leading roles. The catchphrase selected for its brevity and import is "Make a date with 'Dames'".

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TORONTO, ONT.

Toronto Theatres

LOEWS—Manager Jules Bernstein — "Straight Is 'The Way", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer feature, with Franchot Tone, Karen Morley, and May Robson.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — "The Cat's Paw", starring Harold Lloyd, released by Fox Films.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — "The Return of Bulldog Drummond", released by Empire Films, starring Ralph Richardson, and as an added attraction Edward Everett Horton in "It's a Boy", released by Gaumont-British.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — "Whom the Gods Destroy", a Columbia release, featuring Walter Connolly, Robert Young, and Doris Kenyon.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — "Let's Try Again", an RKO production starring Diana Wynyard and Clive Brook.

"Chu-Chin-Chow" Gaumont-British Regal Special Opens Uptown, Toronto

**The Masterpiece of All
Musical Spectacles!**

CHU CHIN CHOW



**Trade Preview and Pre-release
Showing at Uptown Theatre,
Toronto, Sept. 2, at Midnight.**